

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A hanger bar assembly for supporting an outlet box between spaced apart support elements comprising:

a first channel member being longitudinally slidably engagable with a second channel member forming a longitudinally adjustable support bar, said first and second channels each having a channel interior, and a portion of the first channel extends into the second channel interior and a portion of the second channel extends into the first channel interior when the first and second channels are engaged, said first and said second channel members have a generally U-shaped cross-sectional profile, and said second channel member is inverted with respect to the first channel member,

said first channel member having a plurality of longitudinally extending first grooves and a plurality of longitudinally extending first rails, said second channel member having a plurality of longitudinally extending second rails and a plurality of longitudinally extending second grooves, the first rails being slidably received in said second grooves and said second rails being slidably received in said first grooves such that rotational movement between said first and second channel members is resisted;

a clamping device for urging said first and second channel members into respective forced engagement thereby restricting movement between said first and second channel members; and

a securement device attached to said support bar for securing said support bar to the spaced support elements.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The hanger bar assembly as defined in Claim 1, wherein the securement device includes a pair of end plates secured to ends of said support bar.

4. (Original) The hanger bar assembly as defined in Claim 3, wherein said first and second channel members include apertures formed therein to receive fastening hardware to secure said end plates to said support bar.

5. (Original) A hanger bar assembly as defined in Claim 3, wherein said pair of end plates each include at least one spike member extending outwardly for engagement with the support elements, and said at least one spike member includes an elongate portion having a substantially uniform cross-section terminating in a tapered endpoint.

6. (Original) The hanger bar assembly as defined in Claim 1, wherein said first and second channel members have substantially similar cross-sectional profiles.

7. (Original) The hanger bar assembly as defined in Claim 1, wherein said clamp includes a bracket slidably positionable over said support bar and engagable with the outlet box, said clamping device further including a fastener securable with said bracket such that upon securing said fastener to said bracket said first and second channel members are clamped together between said bracket and the outlet box.

8. (Original) The hanger bar assembly as defined in Claim 1, wherein said first and second channel members include a plurality of longitudinally extending shims extending therefrom.

9. (Original) The hanger bar assembly as defined in Claim 1, wherein said first and second channel members are formed of an extruded material.

10. (Currently Amended) A hanger bar assembly for supporting an outlet box between spaced apart support elements comprising:

a first channel member and a second channel member each having a plurality of apertures integrally formed therein adapted to receive fasteners, said first channel member being longitudinally slidably engagable with said second channel member forming an longitudinally adjustable support bar, said first and said second channel members having the same cross-sectional profile;

a clamp for urging said first and second channel members into respective forced engagement thereby restricting movement between said first and second channel members; and

a pair of end plates attached to opposed ends of said support bar by a plurality of fasteners extending into said plurality of apertures, said pair of endplates adapted to secure said support bar to the spaced support elements.

11. (Previously Amended) The hanger bar assembly as defined in Claim 10, wherein said first channel member includes a first and second spaced side walls extending from a connecting wall to define a channel, said first side wall including one of said plurality of apertures formed therein.

12. (Original) The hanger bar assembly as defined in Claim 10, wherein said first channel member second side wall includes a second and a third of said plurality of apertures formed therein.

13. (Original) The hanger bar assembly as defined in Claim 10, wherein said first and second channel members have substantially similar cross-sectional profiles.

14. (Original) The hanger bar assembly as defined in Claim 10, wherein said first and second channel members upon engagement form a plurality of laterally spaced interlocking rail and groove combinations that prevent lateral separation of said first channel member from said second channel member.

15. (Currently Amended) A hanger bar assembly for supporting an outlet box between spaced apart support elements comprising:

a first channel member being longitudinally slidingly engagable with a second channel member forming an longitudinally adjustable support bar, said first and second channel members upon mutual engagement form a plurality of laterally spaced interlocking rail and groove combinations that resist lateral separation of said first and second channel members, said first and second channel members having the same cross-sectional profile;

a clamp for urging said first and second channel members into respective forced engagement thereby restricting longitudinal movement between said first and second channel members; and

a securement device attached to said support bar for securing said support bar to said spaced support elements.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A hanger bar assembly for supporting an outlet box between spaced apart support elements comprising:

a first channel member being longitudinally slidably engagable with a second channel member, each of said first and second channel members including a pair of side walls spaced by a connecting wall to form a channel interior,

said first channel members having a plurality of longitudinally extending shims projecting therefrom and being engagable with opposed surfaces of said second channel member, said shims effecting a fit between said first and second channel members;

a clamp for urging said first and second channel members into respective forced engagement thereby restricting movement between said first and second channel members; and

a securement device attached to said first and second channel members for securing the hanger bar assembly to the spaced support elements.

18. (Original) The hanger bar as defined in Claim 17, wherein said first and second channel members upon mutual engagement form a plurality of laterally spaced interlocking rail and groove combinations that resist lateral separation of said first and second channel members, and said shims being formed on said rails of said first channel member.

19. (Original) The hanger bar assembly as defined in Claim 18, wherein said second channel member includes a plurality of shims formed thereon, said second channel member shims being engagable with opposed surfaces of said first channel member.

20. (Currently Amended) The hanger bar assembly as defined in Claim 17, wherein said first and second channel members include ~~extruded~~ members having a uniform cross sectional profile.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Added) A hanger bar assembly for supporting an outlet box between spaced apart support elements comprising:

a first channel member being longitudinally slidably engagable with a second channel member forming a longitudinally adjustable support bar, said first channel member having a plurality of longitudinally extending first grooves and a plurality of longitudinally extending first rails, said second channel member having a plurality of longitudinally extending second rails and a plurality of longitudinally extending second grooves, the first rails being slidably received in said second grooves and said second rails being slidably received in said first grooves such that rotational movement between said first and second channel members is resisted;

said first and second channel members including a plurality of longitudinally extending shims extending therefrom;

a clamping device for urging said first and second channel members into respective forced engagement thereby restricting movement between said first and second channel members; and

a securement device attached to said support bar for securing said support bar to the spaced support elements.

23. (Previously Added) A hanger bar assembly for supporting an outlet box between spaced apart support elements comprising:

a first channel member being longitudinally slidably engagable with a second channel member forming a longitudinally adjustable support bar, said first channel and said second channel having the same cross-sectional profiles, said first channel member having a plurality of longitudinally extending first grooves and a plurality of longitudinally extending first rails, said second channel member having a plurality of longitudinally extending second rails and a plurality of longitudinally extending second grooves, the first rails being slidably received in said second grooves and said second rails being slidably received in said first grooves such that rotational movement between said first and second channel members is resisted;

a clamping device for urging said first and second channel members into respective forced engagement thereby restricting movement between said first and second channel members; and

a securement device attached to said support bar for securing said support bar to the spaced support elements.

24. (Previously Added) A hanger bar assembly as defined in Claim 1, wherein said first and said second channel members have the same cross-sectional profiles.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (New) A hanger bar assembly for supporting an outlet box between spaced apart support elements comprising:

a first channel member being longitudinally slidably engagable with a second channel member forming a longitudinally adjustable support bar, said first and second channels each having a channel interior, and a portion of the first channel extends into the second channel interior and a portion of the second channel extends into the first channel interior when the first and second channels are engaged, said first and second channel members including a plurality of longitudinally extending shims extending therefrom,

said first channel member having a plurality of longitudinally extending first grooves and a plurality of longitudinally extending first rails, said second channel member having a plurality of longitudinally extending second rails and a plurality of longitudinally extending second grooves, the first rails being slidably received in said second grooves and said second rails being slidably received in said first grooves such that rotational movement between said first and second channel members is resisted;

a clamping device for urging said first and second channel members into respective forced engagement thereby restricting movement between said first and second channel members; and

a securement device attached to said support bar for securing said support bar to the spaced support elements.

27. (New) A hanger bar assembly for supporting an outlet box between spaced apart support elements comprising:

a first channel member being longitudinally slidably engagable with a second channel member forming a longitudinally adjustable support bar, said first and second channels each having a channel interior, and a portion of the first channel extends into the second channel interior and a portion of the second channel extends into the first channel interior when the first and second channels are engaged, said first and second channel members having the same cross-sectional profile;

said first channel member having a plurality of longitudinally extending first grooves and a plurality of longitudinally extending first rails, said second channel member having a plurality of longitudinally extending second rails and a plurality of longitudinally extending second grooves, the first rails being slidably received in said second grooves and said second rails being slidably received in said first grooves such that rotational movement between said first and second channel members is resisted;

a clamping device for urging said first and second channel members into respective forced engagement thereby restricting movement between said first and second channel members; and

a securement device attached to said support bar for securing said support bar to the spaced support elements.

28. (New) A hanger bar assembly for supporting an outlet box between spaced apart support elements comprising:

a first channel member and a second channel member each having a plurality of apertures integrally formed therein adapted to receive fasteners, said first channel member being longitudinally slidably engagable with said second channel member forming a longitudinally adjustable support bar, said first channel member including longitudinally extending first and second spaced side walls extending from a connecting wall to define a longitudinally extending channel, said first side wall including a first of said plurality of apertures formed therein;

a clamp for urging said first and second channel members into respective forced engagement thereby restricting movement between said first and second channel members; and

a pair of end plates attached to opposed ends of said support bar by a plurality of fasteners extending into said plurality of apertures, said pair of endplates adapted to secure said support bar to the spaced support elements.

29. (New) The hanger bar assembly as defined in Claim 28, wherein said first channel member second side wall includes a second and a third of said plurality of apertures formed therein.

30. (New) The hanger bar assembly as defined in Claim 29, wherein said first and second channel members have substantially similar cross-sectional profiles.